WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic reading device, comprising:

an optical detector for detecting positional data for the electronic reading device with respect to an address pattern of a specially formatted surface; and

a sensor for sensing whether the electronic reading device is in contact with the specially formatted surface, wherein the detection of positional data by the optical detector is enabled at least when the sensor determines that the electronic reading device is in contact with the specially formatted surface.

2. The electronic reading device of claim 1, wherein the detection of positional data by the optical detector is disabled when the sensor determines that the electronic reading device is not in contact with the specially formatted surface.

3. The electronic reading device of claim 1, further comprising a buffer for storing the detected positional data, wherein the storing of the detected positional data is disabled when the sensor determines that the electronic reading device is not in contact with the specially formatted surface.

4. The electronic reading device of claim 1, further comprising a local wireless link transmitter for transmitting the detected positional data to a separate electronic device, wherein the transmission of the detected positional data is disabled when the sensor determines that the electronic reading device is not in contact with the specially formatted paper.

5. The electronic reading device of claim 1, further comprising a writing means that can be selectively activated and deactivated, wherein the sensor operates to detect contact of the electronic reading device with the specially formatted surface both when the writing means is activated and when the writing means is deactivated.

6. The electronic reading device of claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a force sensitive detector for determining whether the electronic reading device is in contact with the specially formatted surface.

7. The electronic reading device of claim 6, wherein the sensor detects a user selection of a location on the address pattern in response to a detection of contact between the electronic reading device and the specially formatted surface greater than a predetermined threshold force.

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8. A system for electronic entry of information, comprising:

a specially formatted surface including an address pattern, wherein a particular position on the address pattern can be determined based on an examination of only a portion of the address pattern; and

an electronic reading device including:

an optical detector for detecting a portion of the address pattern adjacent to the electronic reading device;

a sensor for detecting contact between a tip of the electronic reading device and the specially formatted surface; and

a processor for receiving the positional data and determining a particular position of the electronic reading device relative to the address pattern when the sensor detects contact between a tip of the electronic reading device and the specially formatted surface.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the specially formatted surface comprises a paper preprinted with at least one data entry field.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor identifies the preprinted paper based on the determined particular position.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor converts a plurality of determined positions within the at least one data entry field into a data entry for the at least one data entry field.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the electronic reading device further includes a writing means that can be selectively activated and deactivated, and wherein the preprinted paper comprises a reusable preprinted paper for use when the writing means is in a deactivated mode.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the preprinted paper comprises a form for entering information relating to a personal information manager application.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the preprinted paper comprises a form for entering settings for an electronic device.

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15. A method for using an electronic reading device, comprising the steps of:

sensing whether the electronic reading device is contacting a specially formatted surface using a touch sensor;

detecting positional data for the electronic reading device relative to an address pattern of the specially formatted surface; and

storing the positional data when the touch sensor detects that the electronic reading device is contacting the specially formatted surface.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of selecting between an activated writing mode and a deactivated writing mode for the electronic reading device.

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17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting the deactivated writing mode.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the specially formatted surface comprises a reusable data entry paper for a selected application, further comprising the step of using the electronic reading device in the deactivated writing mode in connection with the reusable data entry paper to enter data relating to the selected application.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the selected application comprises a personal information manager.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the selected application facilitates an entry of settings on an electronic device.

21. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of using the electronic reading device to select a particular location on the specially formatted surface by pressing the electronic reading device against the surface above a predetermined force threshold.

22. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of identifying the specially formatted surface based on the positional data.

23. An electronic reading device, comprising:

an optical detector for detecting positional data for the electronic reading device with respect to an address pattern of a specially formatted surface; and

writing means for writing on surfaces, wherein the writing means can be selectively activated and deactivated, the optical detector capable of detecting positional data whether the writing means is activated or deactivated.

24. The electronic reading device of claim 23, wherein the specially formatted surface is preprinted with at least one data entry field and the optical detector facilitates entry of information corresponding to the at least one data entry field.